

# **AGRICULTURE LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES OF THE August 26, 2010 MEETING**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, Martha Neale, Lis Peterman for Ken Ayars.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Will Wright, George Mason, Ken Ayars, Jim Pagliarini

**GUESTS:** Ed Tanner-Town Planner for Bristol, Chirs Kerns-Alteris Energy Sources, Mike Clifford-Clifford Farm, North Smithfield, Fred Ronci-West Wind Farm, North Smithfield.

**STAFF:** Mike Moorman-USDA/NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by Everett Stuart. There was a review of the minutes from February 18, 2010 meeting. Dave Wallace made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 18, 2010 meeting, motion was seconded by Kevin Nelson, motion passé unanimously. The notes from the July 15, 2010 informational meeting were also reviewed.

The Ferobink (Pete Peckham) Farm in Tiverton was discussed, it recently closed and an event was going to be held at the farm on September 10, 2010 all commission members were invited to attend.

Farms that were scored at the last meeting were Usher Farm in Bristol-45.8 and Pagano Farm also in Bristol-40.3. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to accept the farms into the program, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously.

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Ed Tanner from the Town of Bristol requested funds from the Commission for appraisal and engineering costs for the Usher Farm, Pagano Farm and Fales Farm. The Fales farm had already been accepted into the program. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to approve the Town of Bristol's request for \$17, 450.00 to go towards the appraisal and engineering costs, Martha Neale seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Clifford from North Smithfield spoke about his family's farm in North Smithfield and gave some background information to Commissioners prior to scoring. The Clifford Farm application was reviewed and scored 36 points. There was a question concerning the map for the protection of water supplies. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to accept the Clifford farm into the program pending the verification of the protection of water supplies map, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously.

The Schartner Farm in Exeter was also discussed and the application reviewed. The Schartner Farm was scored and ended up with 56.2 points. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to accept the Schartner

**Farm into the program, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, the motion passed unanimously.**

**There was a general discussion about alternative energy projects. The general consensus is that it is consistent with the covenant, leasing land with a payment structure if the projects were for agricultural purposes. Fred Ronci from West Wind farm is interested in pursuing an alternative energy project for his farm in North Smithfield.**

**Brian Simmons from Simmons Farm in Middletown, RI discussed plans for a new barn on the farm. He has been working with NRCS on the design of the new structure. It would be 75 feet north of the existing barn located in the existing parking lot. A design plan was submitted at the time of the meeting to be forwarded to DEM/Division of Agriculture. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to approve the building with the filing of the site plans to Division of Agriculture and all other necessary applications for the construction of the building, motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passé unanimously.**

**The location of the Holscher's (Good Earth Farm in Cranston) well and septic system location were discussed and Dave Wallace made a motion to approve the location of the well and septic system according to the site plans which were submitted to the Commission at the July 15, 2010 meeting and with the approval of DEM legal council, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed**

**unanimously.**

**The meeting schedule for September was discussed with tentative date of September 16, 2010.**

**The Handbook for Commissioners was discussed, a motion was made by Dave Wallace to adopt the Handbook, the motion was seconded by Lis Peterman, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Under additional business, there is one vacant position on the Commission, and a list of farms waiting to be funded would be helpful for the Commissioners to know.**

**A motion was made by Martha Neale to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Lis Peterman, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture, RIDEM**